

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/787,514

Examiner

Hargobind S. Sawhney

Applicant(s)

LI ET AL.

Art Unit

2875

## -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed on 2/26/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 2/26/2005 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 2/26/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 1-12 are allowed.

The prior art of record, including Redmond et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,664,862), and Mori (US Patent No.: 4,936,668), fails to show or suggest the applicant's invention as claimed. Specifically, the prior art of record does not disclose an illumination system combining:

- an optically transmissive light distributing member having an exterior surface in the form of a sequence of progressively smaller diameter cylindrical steps axially extending from its light-receiving end as recited in Claim 1; and
- each of the cylindrical steps including a plurality of axially spaced generally V-shaped grooves each including frusto-conical reflecting surface as recited in Claim 1.

The above-indication combination, including a light –transmissive rod including: a light-receiving end, an exterior surface with smaller diameter cylindrical steps, and the exterior surface further including light reflective grooves; makes this invention unique

Redmond et al. ('862) discloses an edge light for a panel display including an optical member having a light receiving end and an elongated body with an exterior surface including progressively reduced non-circular cross sections. Further, Redmond et al. ('862) teaches the optical member including a plurality of V-shaped grooves

defined only on its major surface opposite to the light emitting surface. However, Redmond et al. ('862) does not teach an optical member with exterior surface including cylindrical steps each further including V-shaped reflective grooves as claimed by the applicant.

Mori ('668) discloses a light radiator including a tapered cylindrical light-guide rod having its exterior surface with spiral grooves. However, Mori ('668) does not teach does not teach an optical member with exterior surface including cylindrical steps each further including V-shaped reflective grooves as claimed by the applicant.

Thus, neither combined nor individual teaching of Redmond et al. ('862) and Mori('668) meets the limitations of the independent Claim 1.

Therefore, Claim 1 is allowed over prior art.

Claims 2-12 are necessarily allowed because of their dependency on the allowed Claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Li (U.S. Patent No. 6,829,412), Ferrante et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,595,673 B1), Koike (U.S. Patent No. 5,542,017), Cho et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,083,549), Long et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,276,693), Ruediger (U.S. Patent No. 4,344,110) and Hirano et al. (Japanese Patent No. JP 1184135).

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hargobind S Sawhney whose telephone number is 571 272 2380. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:15 - 2:45.

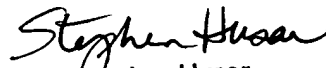
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571 272 2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HSS

6/3/05

  
Stephen Husar  
Primary Examiner